



SOUTHEAST IDAHO

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA, & POWER COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The top portion of **Southeast Table 1, Labor Force and Employment**, shows **Labor Force Data: Civilian Labor Force, Unemployment, Unemployment Rate, and Total Employment**. The lower portion shows **Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** by industry.

In assessing and describing labor market conditions, terms are often used that are similar, but have completely different meanings and are derived from completely different sources. For example *Total Employment* and *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* are two terms that cannot be compared because they have different meanings and are derived from different sources.

Total Employment is a count of people. People who are employed (employment) and unemployed (unemployment) make up the Civilian Labor Force. This data set is derived from the Current Population Survey (CPS), which is conducted nationwide. It is a count of people by where they reside. If an individual lives in Bannock County and is employed anywhere, he/she is counted under *Total Employment* in the Bannock County labor force. If an individual lives in Bannock County and does not work but is actively seeking work (whether he/she receive unemployment benefits or not), that individual is counted under *Unemployed* in the Bannock County labor force. In this data set, an individual is only counted once, regardless of how many jobs he or she has. *Unemployment* and the *Unemployment Rate* are not based on the people who collect unemployment insurance benefits; it is derived from the CPS. Therefore, people who have exhausted their unemployment benefits do not cause the unemployment rate to decrease.

When discussing jobs, the term *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* is used. This data set is derived from two sources: a monthly survey of employers and quarterly reports provided by all employers who are

Southeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Pocatello City MSA (Bannock County)

	Nov 2003*	Oct 2003	Nov 2002	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	40,200	40,890	38,330	-1.7	4.9
Unemployment	1,910	1,970	2,350	-3.0	-18.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.7	4.8	6.1		
Total Employment	38,290	38,920	35,980	-1.6	6.4
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	40,750	40,720	39,240	0.1	3.8
Unemployment	1,890	1,780	23,000	6.2	-91.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.6	4.4	5.9		
Total Employment	38,860	38,940	36,940	-0.2	5.2
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	33,819	34,340	33,830	-1.5	0.0
Goods-Producing Industries	4,095	4,200	4,450	-2.5	-8.0
Natural Resources & Mining	14	10	10	40.0	40.0
Construction	1,625	1,700	1,750	-4.4	-7.1
Manufacturing	2,456	2,490	2,690	-1.4	-8.7
Food Manufacturing	443	450	410	-1.6	8.0
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	120	120	140	0.0	-14.3
Machinery Manufacturing	30	30	40	0.0	-25.0
Other Manufacturing	1,863	1,890	2,100	-1.4	-11.3
Service-Providing Industries	29,724	30,140	29,380	-1.4	1.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	6,757	6,660	6,840	1.5	-1.2
Wholesale Trade	1,014	990	1,040	2.4	-2.5
Retail Trade	4,473	4,400	4,500	1.7	-0.6
Utilities	54	50	50	8.0	8.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,216	1,220	1,250	-0.3	-2.7
Information	740	680	670	8.8	10.4
Financial Activities	1,743	1,760	1,780	-1.0	-2.1
Professional & Business Services	3,433	3,660	3,290	-6.2	4.3
Educational & Health Services	2,755	2,780	2,660	-0.9	3.6
Leisure & Hospitality	3,312	3,280	3,250	1.0	1.9
Other Services	1,116	1,320	1,240	-15.5	-10.0
Government Education	5,705	5,740	5,480	-0.6	4.1
Government Administration	4,163	4,270	4,170	-2.5	-0.2

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

covered by Idaho's unemployment insurance law. **Nonfarm Payroll Jobs is a count of jobs, not people**, by where the work is done. If someone works in Bannock County in a *Retail Trade* business, that job is counted in *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* under *Retail Trade*, regardless of whether that person lives in Bannock County or not. A person could live in Bannock County, but work in a different county. That person's job would not be counted in Bannock County's *Nonfarm Payroll Job* count. If a person works two jobs, both jobs would be counted in this data set, but if the jobs were in different counties they would be counted as one job in each of the two counties.

Labor Force

The Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for November 2003 was 4.7 percent, down one-tenth

of a percentage point from October's revised rate of 4.8 percent. The MSA's November unemployment rate was 1.4 percentage points below the 6.1 percent rate experienced one year ago, and seven-tenths of a percentage point below the state unemployment rate of 5.4 percent.

The MSA's unemployment rate remained lower than the national unemployment rate, which was 5.9 percent in November 2003, and dropped one-tenth of a percentage point from October 2003.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs decreased by 521 from October 2003 to November 2003. Jobs decreased in nearly all industry sectors as summer and fall activity came to a halt and winter recreation and holiday activity was not yet in full swing. A cold snap in November halted parks and recreation jobs and slowed construction activity. In addition harvest wrapped up, eliminating agricultural jobs throughout the area. Jobs in the *Goods-Producing Industries* fell by 105 and followed normal seasonal patterns. Both *Construction* (-75) and *Manufacturing* (-34) experienced job losses as cold weather reduced outdoor construction activity and fall maintenance temporarily reduced processing activity. The *Service-Providing Industries* lost 416 jobs in November. Job losses in the *Service-Providing Industries* also followed normal seasonal patterns. Most job losses occurred in *Services* (-431) and *Government Administration* (-107) because temporary seasonal workers in agriculture, landscaping, recreation, and other summer/fall-related work were no longer needed, and local government parks and recreation and road maintenance departments reduced their workforces for winter.

AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Please note: Information contained in Economic Developments is obtained from area newspapers, local Job Service offices, trade publications, local area Chambers of Commerce publications, and other sources.

Bannock County

- Qwest Communications will add another 47 jobs at its customer service center in Pocatello. The center handles repair, service, and sales calls for the company. The company currently employs over 260 employees in Pocatello with a starting pay of over \$9.00 per hour.
- Health West expanded its operation at 845 West Center in Pocatello and added a geriatric clinic. The \$210,000 expansion includes six examination rooms and an urgent care procedure room, and will allow the clinic to treat up to 40 patients per day.
- The Portneuf Greenway Foundation began construction to connect more of the Greenway trail system in Pocatello. The site runs adjacent to Mountain View Cemetery between Barton Road and Idaho State University. AMI Semiconductor, Pocatello's

largest private employer, contributed \$10,000 toward the new connector.

- Pebble Creek Ski Area near Pocatello opened the week before Christmas after receiving a foot of new snow. The ski area typically opens between the first of December and Christmas, depending on snow levels, and employs more than 50 workers during the ski season.

Bingham County

- Construction of Blackfoot High School's \$3.8 million dollar expansion is on schedule and should be completed in August 2004. The expansion includes a three-court gym, locker rooms, and a 1,200-seat auditorium.
- A copper cupola was added to the clock tower at Firth's new business park. The 800-pound copper dome was installed as a design feature. The business park will house the Blackfoot Medical Clinic, U-Copy, an optometrist, and an attorney. Space is available for more businesses.

Caribou County

- A new beverage and gift shop, Hilltop Hideaway: Unique Beverages & Gifts, opened in Soda Springs. The business is located at 30 Mineral Heights and offers lattes, steamers, sodas, hot chocolate, and various gift items.
- A ruling by the district judge, necessary for the county to bind future commissioners to a long-term lease, allowed Caribou County to enter into a long-term lease to build a new jail. The \$3.8 million proposed jail would house 45 inmates, would include a new sheriff's office, and would be built on county-owned land on U.S. Highway 30 east of Soda Springs. Construction of a new jail facility should save the county money. Currently, the county pays to house Caribou County inmates in jails in other counties and must pay to transport the inmates between facilities. There is also the possibility of housing inmates from other counties at the proposed Caribou County facility.

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